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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/862,549	05/22/2001	Yoshiyasu Kubota	SONYJP 3.0-172	1289

7590

09/16/2003

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EXAMINER

KIM, AHSHIK

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 09/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	09/862,549		KUBOTA ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Ahshik Kim		2876	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the amendment filed on June 10, 2003. In the amendment,
5 claims 1-11 were canceled, and claims 12-25 were newly added. Currently, claims 12-25 remain
for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all
10 obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
15 having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the
manner in which the invention was made.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the
claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various
claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any
20 evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out
the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later
invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c)
and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).
4. Claims 12-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamagata
25 (US 6,609,072) in view of Yeom (US 5,911,080).

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Re claims 12, 15, 16, 18, and 22, Yamagata teaches a plurality of electronic devices 15a, 15b, 15c for performing at least one function, which can be connected to a main unit (i.e., PC). Each device is connected to the main unit via switches 16a, 16b, and 16c for data and power communication (figure 2; col. 7, lines 33+). The main unit contains electricity consumption table
5 30 for each electronic devices to provide adequate power for input/output operation (see abstract; figure 3; col. 2, lines 40+).

Yamagata fails to specifically teach or fairly suggest that each device contains a register for storing current consumption values.

Yeom teaches a computer system receiving power supply from power source only after
10 identification and other information, which is stored on ID card 10 within the computer, is read and verified (see abstract; col. 2, lines 41+).

In view of Yeom's teaching, it would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to store identification information onto connecting devices rather than a main unit in order to provide added security for sensitive information for each
15 devices. By compiling device-related information within the main unit, the main unit, unintendedly becomes information repository and be vulnerable for theft of critical information. Moreover, having such information on receiving devices, the electronic devices can be connected to any generic main unit (without such table and necessary software) and still receives necessary power for operation, and therefore an obvious expedient.

20 Re claims 13, 23 for each device, there exist corresponding header information, which is identification information and can be considered permission information.

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Re claims 14, 20, and 24 operation can be achieved based on evaluation of power consumption record for a particular device, and remaining power in the power supply, and such determination is, in fact, enablement or disablement information.

Re claims 17, 21, and 25 embodiment of connectable electronic devices 15a, 15b, and 5 15c are keyboard, LCD display, and a disk drive (col. 7, lines 33-45), which includes not only physical devices and corresponding driver programs which would have release number or a version number

Re claim 19, as the setting changes for a particular device, updated power requirement information is written to the power consumption table (col. 8, line 60 – col. 9, line 3).

10

Response to Remarks

5. Applicants' amended claims and arguments filed on June 10, 2003 have been carefully considered.

As explained by the Applicants, the claimed invention recites "Electronic devices that 15 perform one or more functions may be configured as a card having the same shape as a memory card " (page 6, 4th paragraph). The Smith patent, as indicated by the Applicants (page 7, 1st paragraph), is concerned with dispensing electrical power from a station. It is the Examiner's opinion that although the embodiments of instant application and the Smith patent were quite different, previously presented claims were broadly written that the Smith patent read on the 20 claimed invention. Perhaps Applicants may want to write the claim 1 similar to "Electronic device configured as a card having the same shape and memory card performing one or more

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functions” as written in the Remarks. The Examiner would contend that such claim may be narrow enough not to invite un-related patents cited in the Office Action.

Although amended claims were somewhat narrower than previously presented claims, it still warranted further search and considerations. In view of the above and further search, this

5 Office Action is made non-final.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to *Ahshik Kim* whose telephone number is (703)305-5203 . The
10 examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 6:00AM to 3:00PM Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee, can be reached on (703) 305-3503. The fax number directly to the Examiner is (703) 746-4782. The fax phone number for this Group is (703)308-7722, (703)308-
15 7724, or (703)308-7382.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [ahshik.kim@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding
25 should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

30 
Ahshik Kim
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2876
September 2, 2003


DIANE I. LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER